

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 PM-03 MCE-00 ACDA-10
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DJOHNSON:CFC
APPROVED BY ARAWPSTEDMAN
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
EUR/NE:SWORREL
PM:RTITUS
P- DTICE
S/S :TGMARTIN
T:LBROWN
D/HA:OJONES
S:DSPIEGEL

-----069350 171725Z /43

O P 171718Z YUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195280

LIMDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM STEDMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION

BUENOS AIRES, ASUNCION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

1. SECRETARY DISCUSSED PROPOSED SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION
SALE IN LONDON WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. THE SECRETARY
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HAS DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE GUATEMALAN
REQUEST ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) WE WILL AGREE TO SUPPLY A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE
AMMUNITION REQUEST, WITH THE AMOUNT TO BE DECIDED AFTER
A REVIEW OF GUATEMALAN REQUIREMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE SECRETARY WILL REVIEW ANY RECOMMENDATION AND MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. GIVEN GUATEMALA'S INVENTORY OF 15,000 GALIL ASSAULT RIFLES THAT USE THE 5.56 AMMUNITION, WHICH WORKS OUT TO ABOUT 330 ROUNDS PER RIFLE, WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE FULL 5 MILLION ROUNDS WOULD BE A REASONABLE BASIC LOAD. NORMAL BASIC STOCKAGE LEVELS AS WELL AS TRAINING AND FAMILIARIZATION REQUIREMENTS COULD EASILY CONSUME THIS AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THE GOG'S CURRENT AMMUNITION INVENTORY FROM OTHER SOURCES IS QUITE LOW. AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS REQUESTED.

(B) AT THE TIME GOG IS INFORMED OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO GO FORWARD WITH THE AMMUNITION SALE, WE WILL URGE THEM TO GET ON WITH THE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE BELIZE DISPUTE. AMBASSADOR WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT ACCEPTABLE TO BURY THE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. WE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE SUPPORT THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE RECENT UK PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO SATISFY GUATEMALAN DESIRES FOR TERRITORY WITHIN A REASONABLE FRAMEWORK. BY THIS WE MEAN NOT THE MONKEY RIVER BUT SOMETHING CLOSER TO THE MOHO. AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON HOW THESE POINTS COULD BEST BE MADE ARE REQUESTED.

(C) AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF ABOVE TO GOG WOULD ALSO INCLUDE, AS A SEPARATE BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT MATTER THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENTS DISCUSSED IN STATE 184483. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. REQUEST REPLY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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